

### This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Assays &amp; screens</b>			
Yeast-based screen for the identification of acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase (ACAC) inhibitors	<p>A high throughput yeast-based screen could help identify ACAC inhibitors to treat obesity and parasitic infections. Yeast strains engineered to express human ACAC<math>\beta</math> (ACACB; ACC2), which plays a role in obesity, were used to screen small molecule libraries for growth inhibitors. <i>In vitro</i> testing of the resulting hits identified a lead compound as a selective, low-micromolar inhibitor of ACACB. Ongoing and planned work includes optimizing and testing the lead compound in animal models of obesity and screening libraries against yeast strains that express Acac enzymes from <i>Toxoplasma</i>, <i>Leishmania</i> and <i>Plasmodium</i>.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.598</b>  <b>Published online May 13, 2010</b></p>	<p>Patent on screening system applied for by <a href="#">The University of Chicago</a>; patent on ACACB inhibitors applied for by <a href="#">ChemDiv Inc.</a>; licensing statuses undisclosed</p>	<p>Marjanovic, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 3, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1003721107  <b>Contact:</b> Piotr Gornicki, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.            e-mail: <a href="mailto:pg13@uchicago.edu">pg13@uchicago.edu</a>  <b>Contact:</b> Robert Haselkorn, same affiliation as above            e-mail: <a href="mailto:rh01@uchicago.edu">rh01@uchicago.edu</a></p>